

these as two constructive points of immediate cooperation between the U.S. and the Catholic Church.

I have also met regularly with Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, Andre Nguyen Van Chau (International Catholic Migration Commission), Kenneth Hackett (Catholic Relief Services), and with representatives of other respected emergency relief organizations to pursue further avenues of cooperation between the U.S. and the Catholic Church. In March, I spent two hours with Mr. Hackett discussing the best way to anticipate political and natural disasters so that aid can be delivered early. The fine work of CRS should be a model for what we can accomplish on a larger scale, with more donors involved in coordinating humanitarian assistance.

The U.S. has financial resources and logistical support to offer Catholic charities. These charities, which receive direction from the Vatican, are often an early warning system of their own, with key insights into where crises will occur and how to prevent them in the first place.

*The Moral imperative to act*

Charity begins at home, as the popular saying goes. We are left—after all the discussion and analysis in Congress, on the OP-ED pages, on the Sunday talk shows—with something that is often forgotten: we have a moral imperative to act to save people who are starving and dying. We as a nation have always done this. To say that it should not be part of foreign policy is to deny much of what we are as a people and country. There is no moral distinction to be made between someone starving in New York and someone starving in Sudan or Rwanda. We should attempt to help both.

It is time to cut through the rhetoric and say it clearly: we should be spending a portion of the federal budget—it's only one half of one percent at present, which does not seem to me to be too high—to help those less fortunate than ourselves. It makes good moral, as well as foreign policy, sense.

That said, there are always ways to provide aid more efficiently. By working together, the U.S. and the Holy See can contribute to the more effective utilization of resources to help those in need. In Pope John Paul II and President Clinton, we have a natural partnership in the concern for the poor, disadvantaged, and forgotten. Let's build on that partnership to achieve concrete results. As I have said before, the U.S.-Vatican relationship seems to be one made in heaven; but it's nice also to see fruits of our labor together here on earth.

CHARLES GATI ON A TROUBLED  
RUSSIA

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take note of an excellent op-ed in the Washington Post of March 17 by my good friend and highly respected foreign policy analyst, Charles Gati. As we reevaluate our relationship with Boris Yeltsin and a rapidly changing Russia, Charles Gati provides an invaluable perspective on the internal disintegration of Russian society and its effect on Yeltsin's ability to govern. While not making excuses for the mistakes Yeltsin has made, we must understand that, as Charles has put it, "Yeltsin's about-face [on reform] is a symptom, not the cause, of Russia's plight." I commend Charles for his incisive and thoughtful

analysis and urge my colleagues to read this excellent piece:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 1995]

WEIMAR RUSSIA

(By Charles Gati)

In his astute analysis of Russia's predicament [op-ed, Feb. 22], Peter Reddaway convincingly shows that President Boris Yeltsin has all but abandoned the course of reform he began in 1991.

The point that needs to be added is that Yeltsin's about-face is a symptom, not the cause, of Russia's plight. As the transition from one-party rule and the command economy to today's chaotic conditions has benefited few and alienated many, public support for reform has yielded to pressure for retrenchment.

In Moscow, members of the small biznis class can afford to rent a dacha for more than \$5,000 a month, eat out at a fashionable Swiss restaurant where the main course costs \$40, and pay \$3.25 for a slice of Viennese torte. By contrast, the vast majority of the Russian people, who earn less than \$100 a month if employed, are worse off than they were under communism.

The nostalgia they feel for an improved version of the bad old days of order, however oppressive, and the welfare state, however meager, is as understandable as it is unfortunate. They walk by Moscow's elegant storefronts that display expensive Western-made goods priced in dollars, not in rubles, wondering what has happened to their lives and to their country. They look for scapegoats at home and abroad.

Showing disturbing similarities to Weimar Germany of the 1920s, Russia is a humiliated country in search of direction without a compass. It is smaller than it has been in three centuries. Both the outer empire in Central and Eastern Europe and the inner empire that was the Soviet Union are gone, and Moscow must now use force to keep even Russia itself together. As its pitiful (and shameful) performance in Chechnya has shown, the military has been reduced to a ragtag army, with presumably unusable nuclear weapons. Four thousand five hundred rubles—worth more than \$4,500 only a few years ago—are now gladly exchanged for one dollar. For its very sustenance, Russia is at the mercy of the International Monetary Fund, which can palliate but surely cannot cure the country's economic ills.

Worse yet, Russia is deprived of pride and self-respect. There was a time, during World War II, when the whole world admired the Soviet military for its extraordinary boldness and bravery. There was a time, in the 1950s, when several ex-colonies of Asia sought to emulate the Soviet model of rapid industrialization and when Soviet science moved ahead of the United States in space research. There was a time, from the 1920s through the 1970s, when many—too many—Western intellectuals and others believed that Soviet-style communism was the wave of the future. And there was a time when then-Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko claimed that no significant issue in world politics could be settled without Moscow's concurrence.

To appreciate the present mood of letdown and frustration, imagine that our currency became all but worthless; that our stores identified some of their wares in the Cyrillic rather than the Roman alphabet, showing prices in rubles; that our political and economic life were guided by made-in-Moscow standards; and that our leaders were lectured by patronizing foreign commissars about the need to stay the course in order to join their "progressive," which is to say the communist, world.

In the final analysis, the condition of Weimar Russia is alarming because it is at once

a weak democracy and a weak police state, pluralistic and yet intolerant, pro-American in its promise but anti-American in its resentments. The public—its pride deflated and its economic needs unmet—craves order at home and respect abroad. The authoritarian temptation is pervasive, and so is the urge to be—and to be seen—as strong once again.

The West may defer the day of reckoning, but it cannot obviate the Russians' eventual need to compensate for the humiliation that is their present fate.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
PALLADIUM-TIMES

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Palladium-Times, the community newspaper of Oswego County, NY, on its 150th anniversary as a daily.

The newspaper traces its history to 1819, when the Oswego Palladium began as a weekly newspaper, and to 1845, when the Oswego Daily Advertiser began daily publication. Its other predecessor, the Oswego Times, interrupted its publication when its owners went off to fight the Civil War.

As chance would have it, the Oswego Palladium and Oswego Times ended up on the same street in this city on the shores of Lake Ontario. However, when it became apparent that neither paper could thrive while competing in the marketplace, the two newspapers joined forces, and the Palladium-Times was created.

Mr. Speaker, few endeavors are more significant to an informed community than local journalism. Freedom of the press is a vital part of our heritage, reflecting the strong belief that only when people have access to the facts and a discussion of the issues are they able to participate fully in the democratic process.

History has shown that an independent and responsible press is essential to a free society, and the Oswego Palladium-Times, by demonstrating these qualities, has earned the trust and loyalty of its readers throughout its 150 years of service. The men and women of the Palladium-Times can take great pride in this accomplishment. I join the people of Oswego County, NY, in wishing the newspaper many more years of success in this enterprise so important to our democracy.

THE INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE  
LEGISLATION FOR THE RELIEF  
OF NGUYEN QUY AN AND  
NGUYEN NGOC KIM QUY

**HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to finally resolve the bureaucratic nightmare in which a brave hero of the Vietnam war, Maj. An Nguyen, has found himself.

Major An is a decorated veteran of the South Vietnamese Air Force, decorated by the